



Minutes City Council's Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee January 19, 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee held on Wednesday, January 19, 2010, 1:30 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, and 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Joel Navarro, Chair

Committee Members Absent:

Councilmember Mark Mitchell

City Staff Present:

Jan Hort, City Clerk
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs
Eric Iwersen, Comm Dev
Bob Pohlit, CIP Coordinator

Sam Thompson, Parks & Rec
Lan Nguyen, Parks & Rec
Edith Ross, Parks & Rec
Jyme Sue McLaren, Comm Dev

Councilmember Navarro called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Review of Minutes

The minutes of November 18, 2009 were accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Right of Way (ROW) Landscape Maintenance Contract Performance Measures

At the committee's request, staff has developed a procedure to monitor contractor performance for ROW projects. Edith Ross explained that staff has divided the City's 10 million feet of landscape into four quadrants (north, south, east and west) so that contractors submit a form when their project has been completed within a particular quadrant. This current process is lengthy. Staff is working on a pro-active, more efficient process. Under the new pilot process the contractor is accompanied by staff that follows up with a quality control inspection. Feedback to the contractor will be in writing should staff discover that additional work is necessary or not done to contractual standards. The contractor will then have five days to complete that work. The six (6) month pilot program was successful and they are ready to carry the process forward.

Councilmember Navarro asked about contractors that fail to meet their contractual obligations. Ms. Ross explained that the contractor is notified by the Procurement Division of the contractual deficiencies. If the contractor does not

rectify the deficiency within a give timeframe, then the Procurement Division has the authorization to withhold funding for services not performed and/or terminate the contract.

Councilmember Navarro emphasized that ROW standards are important and should be aesthetically appealing. He is trying to achieve the 'Tempe' unique feel. It is important that contractors be held accountable for their work product. Sam Thompson added that budgetary constraints have forced weekly landscape maintenance in some ROW locations to bi-weekly maintenance.

Agenda Item 4 – Right of Way Landscape Design Concepts

Lan Nguyen stated that staff evaluated/rated ROW landscaping within Tempe as follows:

- Least expensive to most expensive (market value)
- Age of section
- Irrigation
- Current condition
- Aesthetic value

When rating areas by most expensive to least expensive, Ms. Nguyen stated that with the existing annual budget of \$125,000, it would take 59 years to bring the ROW landscape areas up to desirable maintenance and aesthetic standards. Staff then re-rated these properties by how deteriorated these parcels appeared.

Sam Thompson stated that if Council wished to expedite the rehabilitation of the ROW's, then a bond issue would be a viable option. Councilmember Navarro agreed that it is important for staff and Council to begin planning on how ROW's will be rehabilitated and where that funding will come from when the economic time is right. Creating a distinctive and appealing style within ROW's is the goal.

Mr. Thompson stated there is an ordinance that specifies what type of trees are permitted within the ROW's. Staff is working with Development Services on this limitation. Jyme Sue McLaren mentioned that there are funds for studying transportation, which could include looking at Tempe's street network. This study could prioritize streets that are considered significant or gateway entrances. The study could also create suggested philosophies on streetscape planning. Eric Iwersen added that the downtown streetscape plan is currently underway, which could serve as a launching point for creating a citywide landscaping perspective.

Councilmember Navarro acknowledged that different streets have different character; however there should be some uniformity that signifies distinctiveness throughout Tempe. Sam Thompson stated that staff is working on creating a ROW master plan. Councilmember Navarro voiced support for doing something that makes sense, is smart and that is timeless.

Agenda Item 5 – 8th Street Landscape Project

Eric Iwersen stated that the 8th Street landscape project spans from Rural Road to McClintock Drive. Staff is looking at taking an inventory of what assets are located within this corridor. There are historic properties, thriving businesses, redevelopment opportunities, multi-family units, single family homes, light rail, etc. Creating a more unified vision is the goal. Staff will be hosting a series of public meetings and stakeholder meetings with business/property owners in the area to create a vision for this corridor. This is the first step in seeking federal funding opportunities.

Jyme Sue McLaren stated that the vision that is created could lead to the City embarking on small dollar projects with the anticipation that adjacent developers carry that theme throughout their developments. The Union Pacific railroad corridor is City owned and provides an opportunity to provide pedestrian, bicycle and park connectivity throughout this neighborhood. Councilmember Navarro remarked about the uniqueness of this square mile and how that lends itself to creating something special.

Since the scope of this design project is relatively small, staff is working with the Public Works on-call list of design consultants. Staff is in the process of negotiating a contract with a qualified firm. The final cost of this design concept project is yet to be determined. Ms. McLaren stated that the finished product (design concept) can be used to apply for future federal funding. Staff envisions that this document will address parking issues, environmental and historic preservation concerns, etc., so that future developers understand the nature of this corridor in a holistic fashion. Councilmember Navarro stated that this process might lend itself to a Request for Proposals (RFP) process as well.

Although a consultant will compile the design concept data, there will be a technical team comprised of representatives from each department that will either maintain portions of the corridor, plan transportation, address neighborhood concerns, etc. Staff will be meeting with the property owners of Four Peaks, the Gallup property and the Rodriguez House. Mr. Navarro shared an interest in keeping the gas station. After the scope of this project has been determined, Councilmember Navarro directed staff to make a presentation at an upcoming Issue Review Session.

Agenda Item 6 – Park Renovations Project Update and Future Capital Improvements Project (CIP) Requests

Bob Pohlit gave an overview of park renovations to date:

- Hallman Park
 - 90% of the design is complete
 - Problems with design firm
 - Construction slated to begin April/May
- Dailey Park
 - 60-90% completed
 - Issues raised by neighborhood delayed this project
 - Problems with design firm
 - Construction slated to begin May/June
- Scudder/Goodwin
 - Construction slated to begin July/August
- Clark Park
 - Project on hold due to budgetary constraints
- Diablo Stadium
 - New lighting
 - SRP connections a concern
 - Testing light poles – alert from Consumer Products regarding poles
- JC Park & Tempe Sports Complex

- Testing light poles
- Kiwanis Park
 - Sprinkler replacement on schedule
 - Selection of restroom architect is underway
- Kiwanis Recreation Center
 - Wave equipment replacement
- Escalante Pool Improvements
 - Contract will be presented to Council in February

Residents have indicated a preference for yellow park lights versus the white lights. Yellow lights provide a softer, less stark appearance. White lights are used for athletic fields. Councilmember Navarro asked if there was a better lighting that isn't overbearing. Pressure sodium lights create risk management issues. However, induction lighting can be done in white.

Mr. Pohlit added that bond funds are dedicated to projects until fiscal year 2013-2014. Funding up until 2013 may be diminished due to a continual decline assessed valuations, which will adversely impact the projects noted above.

Agenda Item 7 – 2009 Volunteer Hours

From September 1, to December 31, staff has coordinated 25 volunteer projects for parks that staff identified as needing routine clean up. Over 2,000 volunteer hours have been logged. Although there are a large variety of volunteer groups, staff will be approaching the corporate community to increase their level of participation in these activities. Volunteers from the Desert Botanical Gardens teach classes as they conduct volunteer work in Tempe parks. Staff is also working with the Maricopa County Probation Office to expand their volunteer participation. There is a national organization that coordinates volunteers based on geographical areas, which is another useful tool that staff has employed. This program serves to supplement the staffing challenges that exist.

Councilmember Navarro asked if neighborhoods have been approached to adopt a park in their vicinity. Mr. Thompson replied yes, residents have dedicated their time on a monthly/quarterly basis to maintain parks in their respective neighborhoods.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- CIP/Bonds – money for ROW's
- Federal funding options for ROW
- Athletic field update

Agenda Item 9 – Future Meeting Dates

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Sam Thompson

Jan Hort
City Clerk